GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

EFS&T Department – Forest Clearance - Diversion of 0.12 ha of forest land falling in compartment no.322 of Gopavaram RF, Ramapuramu Beat, Badvel Range, Proddatur (WL) Division (presently in Kadapa Division) in favour of M/s. Jio Digital Fibre Private Limited for laying of Optical Fibre Cable along with existing Right of Way of the road for providing 4G communication in the State of Andhra Pradesh – In-principle (stage-I) approval accorded.

ENVIRONEMNT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Section-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.55 Dated.23.08.2023
Read the following:-

1)Comprehensive guidelines issued by GoI, MoEF&CC, New Delhi in letter F.No.5-2/2017-FC, dated 28.03.2019.
2)From the PCCF & HoFF, Lr.Rc.No.EFS02-15026/5/2021-FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-1, dated 03.08.2023.

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ORDER:

In the letter 2nd read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, has submitted a proposal for diversion of 0.12 ha of forest land falling in compartment no.322 of Gopavaram RF, Ramapuramu Beat, Badvel Range, Proddatur (WL) Division (presently in Kadapa Division) in favour of M/s. Jio Digital Fibre Private Limited for laying of Optical Fibre Cable along with existing Right of Way of the road for providing 4G communication in the State of Andhra Pradesh and requested to consider and process the proposal for issuance of in-principle/Stage-I approval under section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. After careful consideration of the proposal and in view of the powers delegated by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, New Delhi in the letter 1st read above, Government hereby accord in-principle (Stage-I) approval under section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.12 ha of forest land falling in compartment no.322 of Gopavaram RF, Ramapuramu Beat, Badvel Range, Proddatur (WL) Division (presently in Kadapa Division) in favour of M/s. Jio Digital Fibre Private Limited for laying Optical Fibre Cable along with existing Right of Way of the road for providing 4G communication in the State of Andhra Pradesh, subject to the following conditions:

i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;

ii. Demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at the cost of User Agency;

iii. The trench size for laying OFC along the existing diverted Right of Way (RoW) is not more than two meter in depth and one meter in width;

iv. The State Forest Department shall carry out compensatory afforestation (ten times the trees to be felled in the proposed area for diversion i.e., 35x10=350 number of plants) in the degraded forest land at the cost of the User Agency. Detail of DFL area i.e., Map along with DGPS co-ordinates, CS scheme etc. shall be submitted along with the compliance report;

v. Felling of trees shall be carried out under the strict supervision of the DFO/FDO concerned and felling of trees shall not exceed 35 number of trees as reported;

vi. Full exemption of NPV is allowed in case of laying of underground OFC cable provided no felling of trees is involved and area proposed for diversion is outside of Protected area as per the MoEF&CC guidelines. But in case an amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Forest Department from the user agency. The user agency shall furnish as undertaking to this effect;

vii. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal *(https ://parivesh.nic.in/)*;

viii. The forest land shall be restored to its original state after laying the same;

ix. The User Agency shall submit RoFR certificate in the prescribed format before issue of Stage – II approval;

x. The muck generated in the earth cutting if any, will be disposed off at designated dumping sites and in no case the muck / debris will be disposed off in the forest areas;

xi. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;

xii. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the user agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternative fuel.

xiii. The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred or sublet to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the State Government;

xiv. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the State Government;

xv. Minimal disturbance should be ensured by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it will be the responsibility of the UA to ensure that the labourers & staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby flora & fauna;

xvi. The total forest area to be utilized for the project shall not exceed **0.12 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;

xvii. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;

xviii. User agency and the State Forest Department shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;

xix. Any other conditions that the Central Government or State Government may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the user agency;

xx. Compliance report on the above conditions shall be processed and submitted through e - port al *(https ://parivesh.nic.in/)*;

xxi. In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the user agency is liable for penal action as provisions of rules / guidelines made under FCA , 1980;

3. After receipt of the compliance report on above mentioned conditions, the proposal will be considered for final approval. This in-principle approval shall be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issue of this order. In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions, this in-principle approval shall automatically stand revoked after 5 years.

4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, shall take further necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,
Andhra Pradesh, Mangalagiri, Guntur.

Copy to:
The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central),
GoI, MoEF&CC, RO, Chennai (Sub-office at Vijayawada)
Green House Complex, Gopal Reddy Road,
Vijayawada-520010.
The Manager-RD, M/s Jio Digital Pvt., Ltd., 6th Floor, Vinaynagar Trade Centre, VIP Road, CBM Compound, Visakhapatnam-530 003.
SF/SC.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER